



The Back Pew

The Newsletter of Leesburg Presbyterian Church,
Leesburg, Virginia

Serving God and Neighbor in the Heart of Leesburg since 1804

www.leesburgpresbyterian.org

June 2011



“Let’s Talk Theology in June!”

This spring a lot of dust was kicked up in the evangelical world when Pastor Rob Bell published his newest book, *Love Wins: A Book about Heaven, Hell and The Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived*.

Bell, age 40, is the pastor of 10,000 member Mars Hill Church in Grandville, Michigan and is known by folks at LPC who viewed and discussed NOOMA, his very popular video series on the intersections of Christianity with 21st century life.

In *Love Wins*, Bell reexamines Christianity’s traditional understanding of life, salvation and what happens after we die. Bell questions the traditional notion of hell as a place where individuals suffers eternal punishment for unbelief and wrongdoings, and he suggests that the loving nature of God means everyone will ultimately be forgiven and saved.

Bell writes:

A staggering number of people have been taught that a select few Christians will spend forever in a peaceful, joyous place called heaven, while the rest of humanity spends forever in torment and punishment in hell with no chance for anything better. It’s been clearly communicated to many that this belief is a central truth of the Christian faith and to reject it is, in essence, to reject Jesus. This is misguided and toxic and ultimately subverts the contagious spread of Jesus’s message of love, peace, forgiveness, and joy that our world desperately needs to hear.

This discussion about the universal versus exclusive salvation received in Jesus Christ is one I remember having in my own confirmation class and every confirmation class I’ve taught in my ministry. And just last spring I heard an adult Sunday morning class debating this topic.

So. . . I’ve decided that the curious, intelligent folks of LPC should get in on this conversation and see what all the fuss is about by reading and discussing Rob Bell’s book during the first three weeks in June.

Two different settings, two different times, first three weeks in June!

Tuesday mornings, 10:00 – 11:30, June 7, 14, 21 – Church Parlor

Monday nights, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, June 6, 13, 20 – at a local watering hole to be announced

See video trailer with Bell introducing topic: www.youtube.com – search “Rob Bell Love Wins.”

Please contact the church office by phone or e-mail to sign up for one of these classes. I’ve ordered 15 copies: \$12. Or you can acquire your own book.

Let’s talk!

Grace and peace,

Debbie

LPC Book Club

Friday, June 10th at 9:30

We will discuss *Sundays at Tiffany's* by James Petterson. Contact Jennifer Marsh for more information about book club (703-779-0042, jmcleanmarsh@hotmail.com). We'll resume September 8 and discuss *Juliet* by Anne Fortier.

Circle One

Thursday, June 2nd, at 10:00 a.m.

Join us as we complete our study of Revelation. Hope to see you then! For more information, contact Laura Herring, 703-777-7639.

Emma Clemens/Ruth Circles

Wednesday, June 1st at 7:30 pm

The study season will end with Betty Lowenbach leading the last lesson on the Book of Revelation. All women are welcome to attend. Contact Helen Taylor at 703-777-6338 if you have any questions.

Monday Morning Stitchers

Monday, June 20th at 11:00 am

We have a great group of ladies that stitch on the 3rd Monday of each month at the home of Jane Ashbaugh. We want to invite anyone that would like to join us. We are a very informal group—you can just bring whatever project you are working on and stitch and visit with us. If you have ever wanted to learn counted thread, canvas work (needlepoint) or cross stitch on linen, now is the time! Please call if you have any questions. (703-779-0747)

PRESCHOOL PARTICULARS

What a great year to celebrate as we head into Summer! Camps for June are full with waiting lists for both! The field trip to Great Country Farms was a great success with everyone having a wonderful time. The Spring Programs were enjoyed by everyone who attended! (How can you not love seeing children singing while dressed in farm clothes???) The Preschool logo is going to be registered with Land's End, so those wanting Preschool gear can have a great choice of items from which to choose! Registration continues for next year and we continue to count our blessings as classes are filling up! We were so sad to say goodbye to our Four Year Olds...they may be ready to go to kindergarten, but I am not sure we are ready for them to go! Their Graduation Program was beautiful, with songs, poems, and Bible verses...and some crying too!!! (And not the students!) A special thank you to our Director, Elaine Thiel, and all of our wonderful Preschool teachers! Have a great Summer and thank you for all of your prayers, help, and support! (Sorry, if I used too many explanation marks...it has just been such a great year!!!!)

Almost Heaven—West Virginia

Youth Mission 2011

Thanks to all of you, the High School Youth Mission Team will soon be setting off once again to Gilbert, West Virginia for this year's summer mission trip.

From June 26 through July 2, our hardy team of LPC youth and adults will join with the Presbytery of West Virginia's Ministry of Advocacy & Workcamps. It is WMAW's mission to partner with those in need whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters, or by the disaster of poverty in different areas of West Virginia.

Please be sure to join us for the commissioning service on Sunday, June 26, at 10:00. Thank you for partnering with us through your prayers and generous support.

MISSION AND WITNESS CORNER

“Opportunities for Service and Offerings”

June 2011

- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering was received on Easter Sunday. This PC(USA) offering received \$2,335.00 towards programs for self-development of people, hunger and disaster assistance. Thanks for your most generous gifts.
- The Pentecost Offering will be received on June 12, 2011. This second special PC(USA) offering targets high risk children and supports young adult volunteers who work with programs addressing the needs of children at risk. Forty percent of our offering will be designated by our congregation for local use. This year, the Mission and Witness Committee decided to designate Recreation Outreach to Community Kids (R.O.C.K.), a partnership of the Town of Leesburg’s Department of Parks and Recreation and the Leesburg Police, providing positive recreation and leisure experiences through after-school and summer programs for kids age 5-12. Watch the bulletins for inserts and more information about the offering. A special offering envelope will be provided for your use.
- Service Activity Opportunity: help prepare and package meals for individuals and families in need. This involves 2-3 hours on occasional Sundays, working with other community groups and churches. Contact Kathi Stone for more information. (703-777-7194 RKstone_54@msn.com)
- Reminder: Mark your calendar for the next New Orleans trip, scheduled for March 26 to April 1, 2012!

PASTOR’S RESPONSE TO THE PASSAGE OF AMENDMENT 10-A

Dear Friends,

As many of you have read in the newspaper, a majority of presbyteries in the Presbyterian Church (USA) voted to change the constitutional standards about ordination of ministers, elders, and deacons.

In 1996, an amendment to the *Book of Order* was passed restricting ordination and installation to those who are in a marriage between a man and a woman or “chaste in singleness.” The not so subtle objective was to keep gay and lesbian Presbyterians from serving as officers and ministers in our church. Until 1996, there had been no singling out a sexual ethic in terms of appropriate standards for ordination/installation and no focus on one category of Presbyterians prohibited from ordained service.

Since 1996, this amendment has been discussed, argued, and debated continually and often, very heatedly, in meetings of presbyteries and General Assembly and less often, within congregations. At the General Assembly held last summer, the motion passed to forward the following amendment for the vote of all presbyteries:

Standards for ordained service reflect the church’s desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240 G-14.0450), shall examine each candidate’s calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate’s ability and commitment to requirements expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.”

My vote was among the majority of commissioners who voted to approve this amendment at the meeting of National Capital Presbytery on April 30th. I am thankful that this amendment has passed and opened the doors to ordained service to all faithful Presbyterians who are devoted to Christ and feel called to serve His ministry as deacon, elder or minister.

At the same time, I understand that there are many faithful Presbyterians who disagree with me and the passage of this amendment. It is my firm belief that our church can and should accommodate differing positions on this complex issue and that there is room in our congregation and our denomination for all differing opinions regarding the interpretation of scripture in matters of sexual ethics.

My prayer is that we find common cause in the redemptive person and work of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

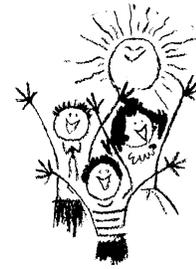
Grace and peace,

Debbie Parsons

Church School Close-out Celebration

June 5, 2011

We invite all Leesburg Presbyterian Church parents and children to our church close-out celebration. This year in church school we have journeyed through the Gospel message. Our Kindergarten through 5th grade classes began their Fall with messengers from the Old Testament. After Advent and Christmas we studied the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew. We spent the Lenten season slowly marching through Holy Week and we have ended our studies with the letters of Paul. What will the children remember and what will their favorite lessons? On June 5, we will culminate our journey with a presentation of the Gospel in song & storytelling. If your child(ren) have not attended church school, they can still participate. Classes will be gathering at 9:45 a.m. in their classrooms to prepare. Our close-out celebration will begin promptly at 10:15 in the Fellowship Hall. Parents and our entire church family are encouraged to join us as we celebrate this important moment in the life our church.



school
study
be

Vacation Bible School



July 10-14, 2011 from 5:30 - 8:00 pm

Hosted by Leesburg Presbyterian Church and

St. James Episcopal Church

Held at St. James Episcopal Church

Registration: \$20 first child, \$15 additional children in family (maximum \$50 per family)

Completed registration form **and** fee are due at the LPC office by **Sunday, July 3, 2011.**

(Checks payable to St. James Episcopal Church)

What you get with registration:

5 days of VBS fun (crafts, snacks, prizes) and dinner

Child name(s): _____

Birthdate(s): _____

Rising Grade(s): _____

Home Church: _____

Parents' Names (including last name): _____

Phone Number: _____ Parent's Emergency Phone Number: _____

Doctor's Phone Number: _____ Known Allergies: _____

\$4 Purchase VBS music CD

Priority will be given to members of LPC and STJ until June 14, 2011. Payment must accompany registration.

Christian Education Corner

Coffee & Chat: Let's Talk About Islam

June 5, 2011 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

in the Parlor



Do you have lingering questions from the Islam class? Any reflections that you did not have an opportunity to share? Or did you leave with one last thought you want clarified?

Join us for a final fellowship and chat with Mr. Brooks Barber about Islam and Christianity.

Mr. Brooks Barber, Teaching Fellow, The Catholic University of America

*“But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift...The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and **teachers**, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God.” Ephesians 4:7-11*



Thanks, Thanks, Thanks!! for the tireless efforts of our volunteer Christian Educators. Because of you, our Church School and Adult Education ministries have nurtured our faith, encouraged our hearts, and built us up as the body of Christ. The seeds that you have sown have fallen on fertile ground and we look to God to give the increase. Thanks for your loving service to the education of our congregation.

2010 – 2011 Church School Teachers

<u>Preschool</u>	<u>K/1st</u>	<u>2nd/3rd</u>	<u>4th/5th</u>	<u>Middle School</u>	<u>High School</u>
Holly Rhodes	Kathy McAlpine	Trish Fraker	Heidi Renner	William Marsh	Randy Jackson
Angela Helge	Linda Gibson	Stacie Markel	Beth Shockley	Jennifer Marsh	Wes Rhodes
		Doug Sweeney		Amanda Franklin	Mary Hunter Leach

2010 – 2011 Adult Education Teachers

- Dana Huntley – Epistle of Ephesians (Fall 2010)
& Great Hymns of the Faith (Spring 2011)
- John Sawyer – The Intertestamental Period (Fall 2010)
- William Marsh – Book of Proverbs (Fall 2010)
- Ben Franklin – The Ten Commandments (Fall 2010)
- Betty Lowenbach – NOOMA (Fall 2010)
- Frank Gasperini – Evangelism (Winter 2011)
- Juli Barnes – Effective Parenting in a Defective World (Spring 2011)

Share The Care

We wish to extend a special Thank You to everyone who has helped with Share The Care this year.

Angela & Wayne Helge, Lynn Colavita, Jennifer & Doug Sweeney, Caroline & Andy Milne, Susan & Matt Howard, Kim & Garrett Goldstein, Jennifer & William Marsh, Holly & Wes Rhodes, Jennifer & Todd Morris, Jennifer Lovelace, Heather & Michael McGuinness, Lauren Vogan, Carley Potter, Cullen Poisson, Courtney and Bryce McAlpine, Cate & Emma Renner, Micaiah & Marcellus Wiggins

Thank you for all of your help in making this a successful school year of Share The Care!



Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, June 12th

Our annual Church picnic begins immediately following the 10:00 service on the front lawn.

Deacons will provide fried chicken, and drinks.

Congregation Members are asked to complete the buffet by signing up to bring a cold side dish or dessert or make a \$10.00 contribution toward the cost of food.

Bring blankets & chairs and prepare to enjoy an afternoon filled with games & laughter with your church family.

All are welcome!

News from the Session

Current members of the Session are Jim Barnes (Clerk), Stuart Brown, Chris Folk, Jason Hovda, Randy Jackson, William Marsh, Pam Poisson, Steve Potter, Holly Rhodes, Kathi Stone, Doug Sweeney and Jane Wallace. Rev. Debbie Persons serves as Moderator.

Among recent actions taken by the Session:

- Approved the examination of newly elected elders and deacons for ordination and installation on Sunday, May 22

The Session offered commendations for:

- Chris Folk, Kathi Stone and the rest of the New Orleans Mission Team for the excellent presentation on the 2011 mission trip
- Debbie Parsons for organizing an excellent retreat for current and newly elected church officers
- Sharon Brown and the adult Christian education committee for organizing outstanding classes for adults this year, and Dana Huntley and Becky Sweet for leading the current class on the Great Hymns of the Faith
- All of the Elders and Deacons who recently completed their terms, for their faithful, dedicated service to the church
- Jane Wallace for providing tremendous assistance at a recent funeral

PENTECOST SUNDAY and ALL CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, June 12

10:00 Worship led by LPC YOUTH

Wear red!

Dress Sunday picnic casual!

followed by

Picnic on the Front Lawn

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

June 12 - September 4

10:00 Worship

followed by Fellowship on the Lawn



A special thank you from the Rollisons for all the support, prayers, cards, and kindnesses during Stanley's recovery.

June 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5/29 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School 9:45	5/30 Memorial Day	5/31 Mom's Alive!	1 Choir Practice 7:30 Emma Clemens/Ruth 7:30	2 Circle One 10:00	3	4
5 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Church School Close-out Celebration 10:15	6 Let's Talk! 7:00	7 Mom's Alive! Let's Talk! 10:00 Deacons 7:00	8 Choir Practice 7:30	9	10 Book Club 9:30	11
12 Worship 10:00 Youth Sunday Church Picnic	13 Let's Talk! 7:00	14 Mom's Alive! Let's Talk! 10:00 Property Ctte 7:00 Evangelism Ctte 7:00 Mission/Witness 7:00 Worship Ctte 7:30	15 Choir Practice 7:30	16	17	18
19 Worship 10:00 Finance Ctte 11:00	20 Let's Talk! 7:00 Monday Morning Stitchers 11:00 Christian Ed Ctte 7:30 July/Aug Newsletter deadline	21 Let's Talk! 10:00 Session 7:30	22 Choir Practice 7:30	23	24	25
26 Worship 10:00 High School Mission Trip	27	28	29 Choir Practice 7:30	30	7/1	7/2





Leesburg Presbyterian Church
Rev. Deborah Parsons
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Phone: 703-777-4163
E-mail: office@lpcva.org
www.lpcva.org

Summer Worship Schedule
June 12–September 4
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper is celebrated the first Sunday of each month.

Sign up for our weekly electronic newsletter at www.lpcva.org!

OUR CHURCH ELDERS: Jim Barnes—Clerk of Session, Stuart Brown, Chris Folk, Jason Hovda, Randy Jackson, William Marsh, Pam Poisson, Steve Potter, Holly Rhodes, Kathi Stone, Doug Sweeney, Jane Wallace.

DEACONS: Glenna Bingham, Rebecca Caprio, Tom Chase, Sandy Gasperini, Kim Goldstein, Tom Gurney, Carla Holland, Julie Koochagian, Babe McGuire, Caroline Milne, Shirley Pearson, and Nancy Vanzandt.

Leesburg Presbyterian Church
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